

July 12, 1947

The Honorable Carter Manasco  
U. S. House of Representatives  
1306 New House Office Building  
Washington, 25, D. C.

My dear Congressman Manasco:

I have discussed with Admiral Hillenkoetter the alternative provisions regarding the position of Director of Central Intelligence as contemplated in the unification bill.

It is felt that the first proposal, which provides only for a civilian Director, would be unfortunate, for reasons set forth below.

The second alternative provides that the first Director may be appointed from the armed services, but that subsequent Directors shall be appointed from civilian life. As in the first proposal, this appears to place an unfortunate restriction upon the Presidential powers of appointment. The President should be allowed to exercise his discretion in appointing the best available Director, either from civilian or military life, depending upon the qualifications of personnel available at the time of appointment. The necessity of Senate confirmation of the Director would eliminate the possibility of a poor selection; and the Senate in its discretion would probably reject appointees from the armed services if they were continually rotated for short tours of duty. If at some time in the future, we were plunged into another war, the most qualified appointee might well be a reserve officer who had entered on active duty from civilian life. The proposed restriction would prevent his appointment by the President. Such a limitation would have prevented the appointment of the Director of the Office of Strategic Services during the past war.

The third alternative provides that the first Director may be appointed from civilian or military life, but makes no provision for the appointment of any subsequent Director. If this alternative is adopted, this defect should be corrected.